**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether the Government do not think that the introduction of compulsory primary education in such particular areas will be a proper remedy?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: One method of compelling attendance which is now open to us is in the present circumstances likely to cause a great deal of hardship. We are now trying to find out whether there is any method of persuasion like giving concessions, changes in the hours of attendance etc. We are going on with this experiment to find out whether we can improve the attendance without actual compulsion.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have not, Sir, the attempts of the Government in this line been a failure and have not produced the desired effect?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: We are still trying to improve upon our methods and we are still hopeful.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: What Sir, are the difficulties of the Government in introducing compulsion?

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: The question is too large. There is a cut motion on the question when I may be permitted to speak at length. I do not think this is the proper time to speak on the question whether compulsory primary education should be introduced in the State.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: I have sent up a large number of questions, Sir, on this topic which I wanted to be answered before the discussions come up and from the number of questions that are placed before the table today, *i. e.*, 11 questions, my hopes for getting the answers in time are few and far between.

**Mr. President:** The proper time to discuss such things is when the cut motions are discussed.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, has there been any request to the Government for permission to introduce compulsory primary education.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*: There was an occasion when the bill was actually introduced.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the 5th Council, Sir, subsequent to Makaram last or in Makaram itself has there been any request from any Hon'ble Member of this House requesting the Government to give him sanction to introduce a Bill?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran** *(Secretary to Government)*; The Hon'ble Member could put an independent question on this subject and the Government will answer it very soon.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: What exactly Sir, is the harm in answering this question. When a specific question is put they are expected to be ready with these answers. Why say like this when information is sought for useful purposes and to have a useful discussion on important subjects. We never expected such answers from the Government of Cochin which was very responsive and at times responsible.

**Rama Varmha Tampuran** *(Secretary to Government)*: This question will be answered before the education budget is discussed.

## Announcement of election of members to the Education Advisory Committee

**Mr. President:** Nomination papers for the election of members to the Education Advisory Committee will be handed over to the Council Secretary before 5 p.m. on 29th July 1943.

## Condolence motion on the demise of Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao

**Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese** *(Chief Medical Officer)*: It is my sad duty to move this condolence motion that stands against my name on the untimely death of Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao, who from the year 1931 to 1939, was the Chief Medical Officer of the the State and an official Member of this House. The news of his death was a shock to most of us who had hoped that he would long be spared to enjoy his retired life at Coimbatore. Dr. Rao was so well known a figure that I don't think any reference at length on his career would be necessary.

He was born on the 8th of November 1884 of humble parents and had his early education in British Malabar. He then joined the Medical School at Royapuram and after a fairly distinguished course of studies, he entered service in British India as a Hospital Assistant.

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